

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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INRE-00 NSC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03
INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04
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EUR - MR. HARTMAN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015042

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EC, CIEC

SUBJECT: NOTE FROM EC PRESIDENCY ON CIEC

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NOTE DELIVERED TO DEPARTMENT
BY UK AMBASSADOR RAMSBOTHAM
AND EC COMMISSION HEAD OF DELEGATION SPAAK ACTING ON
INSTRUCTIONS FROM EC COUNCIL. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT
THE EC COUNCIL OF FEBRUARY 18 HAD APPROVED THE NOTE
EXCEPT FOR PARA B WHICH SHOULD THUS BE CONSIDERED AS
BRACKETED.

2. BEGIN TEXT: CONFIDENTIAL - NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENCY -
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SUBJECT: RESUMPTION OF CIEC. (RESULTS OF THE HIGH LEVEL
GROUP MEETING ON 6 JANUARY 1977)

IT WAS AGREED IN DECEMBER 1976 THAT THE COUNCIL
OF 18 JANUARY 1977 SHOULD DISCUSS THE RESUMPTION OF THE
CIEC.

THE COMMUNITY APPROACH TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE WAS DEFINED BY THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN THE HAGUE WHEN IT "CONFIRMED THE IMPORTANCE WHICH IT ATTACHES TO THE SUCCESS OF THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE AND REQUESTED THE COMPETENT BODIES OF THE COMMUNITY TO

PROCEED IN THIS LIGHT WITH THEIR WORK ON ALL OF THE MATTERS UNDER DISCUSSION".

AT THIS STAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS IT IS POSSIBLE ONLY TO WORK OUT VIEWS OF A PRELIMINARY NATURE WHICH MUST ALSO OF NECESSITY BE FLEXIBLE, DUE TO FACTORS WHICH ARE STILL UNCERTAIN AND WHICH CONCERN IN PARTICULAR THE POSITION OF THE NEW UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION, THE VIEWS OF THE GROUP OF 19 AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS SINCE LAST DECEMBER.

THE RESUMPTION OF THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE RAISES QUESTIONS OF PROCEDURE (TIMETABLE FOR AND PREPARATION OF THE FINAL MINISTERIAL MEETING) AND QUESTIONS OF SUBSTANCE (ADOPTION OF THE FINAL NEGOTIATING POSITION OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES). THESE QUESTIONS ARE INTER-CONNECTED SINCE RESUMPTION OF THE CIEC PRESUPPOSES THAT THERE IS A REAL LIKELIHOOD OF PROGRESS ON MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE. THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE COMMUNITY, FOR ITS PART, "IS PREPARED TO MAKE AS POSITIVE A CONTRIBUTION AS IT CAN TO THE EXTENT THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN ITS OWN ECONOMY PERMIT". MORE WORK WILL BE REQUIRED TO GIVE EFFECT TO

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THIS INTENTION.

THE COMMUNITY MUST BE IN A POSITION IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS ITS INITIAL IDEAS REGARDING THE TIMETABLE FOR AND THE PREPARATION OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING WITH THE NEW UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION (THE POSITION OF WHICH WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT FACTORY), THE NEW JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND THE GROUP OF 8 AS A WHOLE, ESPECIALLY THE CANADIAN CO-CHAIRMAN.

TIMING

A) THE NEW UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION WILL NEED SUFFICIENT TIME TO STUDY THE CIEC DOSSIER AND THE NINE WILL NEED TIME TO CONTINUE THE NECESSARY SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS. THEREAFTER MEMBERS OF THE G-8 WILL HAVE TO CONCERT THEIR VIEWS ON THE FINAL OUTCOME AND TO TAKE INFORMAL SOUNDINGS OF SOME OF THE MAIN MEMBERS OF THE G-19. OTHER INTERNATIONAL DEADLINES WILL ALSO HAVE TO

BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT (IN PARTICULAR THE UNCTAD COMMON FUND CONFERENCE FROM 7 MARCH TO 1 APRIL AND THE NEXT EUROPEAN COUNCIL). EQUALLY, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE PROBABLE WISH OF THE 19 THAT THE CONFERENCE BE RESUMED RAPIDLY. IN THIS CONNECTION IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CONVINCE THE 19 THAT, IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO BE SUCCESSFUL, THE NEW UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION

MUST BE GIVEN TIME TO STUDY THE DOSSIER. IN THE LIGHT OF THESE FACTORS, AN APPROPRIATE MOMENT FOR THE HOLDING OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING WOULD SEEM TO BE THE END OF APRIL/BEGINNING MAY.

B) THE PROCEDURE FOR PREPARING THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE SINCE EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN HOW DIFFICULT IT IS FOR THE 19 TO DROP ANY OF THEIR DEMANDS BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS REACH THEIR FINAL STAGE. A
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SATISFACTORY PROCEDURE COULD BE TO ARRANGE A SINGLE MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONS PRIOR TO THE MINISTERIAL MEETING. THERE SHOULD ONLY BE A SHORT PAUSE BETWEEN THE TWO AND IT MAY BE NECESSARY, IF THE COMMISSIONS HAVE LEFT MATTERS IN A FORM UNSUITABLE FOR SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS, TO HAVE A SHORT DRAFTING MEETING OF ALL DELEGATIONS DURING THIS PAUSE.

THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP CONSIDERED WHETHER TO RECOMMEND THAT THE COUNCIL ENTER INTO SUBSTANCE ON 18 JANUARY. THEY CONCLUDED THAT THIS WOULD BE TOO SOON FOR A FRUITFUL DISCUSSION TO BE HELD, THOUGH IF ANY MINISTER WISHES TO REPORT DEVELOPMENTS IN HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION, THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF G-8. THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP WILL MEET AGAIN BEFORE THE END OF FEBRUARY, AT THE LATEST, IN ORDER TO PREPARE A THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE EITHER ON 8 FEBRUARY OR ON 8 MARCH AT THE LATEST. IT WILL BE IMPORTANT THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD HAVE HAD SUCH A DISCUSSION BEFORE THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON 25 MARCH.
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